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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.68

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of the newly revised paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.68, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the participation of government representatives from least developed countries in the annual assessment of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 by the Economic and Social Council within the context of the overall financial provisions established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1798 (XVII) and subsequent amendments.

2. The Secretariat would like to draw the attention of the Committee to General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII), as amended by General Assembly resolutions 2128 (XX), 2245 (XXI), 2489 (XXIII), 2491 (XXIX), 41/176, 41/213, 42/214, 42/225, section IV, 43/217, section IX and 45/248, section XIII, which sets the rules and procedures governing the payment of travel and/or subsistence expenses of members of certain organs and subsidiary organs by the United Nations. In accordance with this resolution, the United Nations shall pay the travel, but no subsistence expenses for: (a) not more than five representatives, including alternate representatives, of each Member State designated as a least developed country attending a regular session of the General Assembly; and (b) for one representative of each Member State participating in a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council or in a subcommission or subcommittee of a functional commission,

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where such representatives are nominated by their Governments in consultation with the Secretary-General and subsequently confirmed by the Council, or where, in the case of representatives nominated directly by their Governments, the Council recommends and the General Assembly decides that such payments should be made. Given the absence of specific provision under General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) that would relate to the meeting referred to in paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.68, it is apparent that no financial provisions have been made or foreseen. The implementation of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution is therefore understood as requiring the Secretary-General to seek and administer extrabudgetary resources and would not require the use of any regular budget funds.

3. Owing to time constraints, information in the present statement has already been presented orally to the Second Committee.